Amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended) A participant (1) of a communication system, comprising:

a first communication path (10) and a second communication path (20), the communication paths in the communication system having a double-ring topology that is configured to operate in contrary directions;

a first processing unit (11) configured to process information signals, obtained via the first communication path (10), and/or to generate and send information signals via the first communication path;

a second processing unit (21) configured to process information signals received via the second communication path (20) and/or to generate and send information signals via the second communication path;

a first activatable coupling (13, 22) positioned between the first communication path (10) and the second communication path (20), such that upon activation of the first activatable coupling, information signals are picked up from the first communication path (10) and delivered to the second communication path (20), wherein a location for delivery to the first activatable coupling is positioned downstream in a signal travel direction of a processing unit (21) of the second communication path (20),

wherein the processing unit (11, 21) checks ~~the~~ an information signal for its presence, and wherein one phase locked loop per communication path is

provided, wherein said one phase locked loop per communication path is configured for phase preparation of a received information signal.

2. (previously presented) The participant in accordance with claim 1,

wherein pickup of the first activatable coupling is located downstream in the signal travel direction of a processing unit (11) of the first communication path (10).

3. (previously presented) The participant in accordance claim 1,

wherein the first activatable coupling includes a first intermediate connecting line (13) configured to connect the first communication path (10) to the second communication path (20), and a first switchover element (22), inserted into both the first intermediate connecting line (13) and the second communication path (20).

4. (original) The participant in accordance with claim 3,

wherein the first switchover element (22) is a multiplexer with two inputs and one output, and the inputs are switchable selectively to the output.

5. (previously presented) The participant in accordance with claim 1,

wherein the processing units (11, 21) are microprocessor systems for protocol processing for high-level data link control processing.

6. (previously presented) The participant in accordance with claim 1,

wherein a second activatable coupling (23, 12) is located between the first communication path (10) and the second communication path (20), such that upon activation of the second activatable coupling, information signals are picked up from the second communication path (20) and delivered to the first communication path (10), and

wherein a location for delivery to the second activatable coupling is located downstream in the signal travel direction of the processing unit (11) of the first communication path (10),

and wherein pickup of the second activatable coupling is expediently located downstream in the signal travel direction of the processing unit (21) of the second communication path (20).

7. (original) The participant in accordance with claim 6,

wherein the second activatable coupling includes an intermediate connecting line (23) for connecting the second communication path (20) to the first communication path (10) and a second switchover element (22), inserted into both the intermediate connecting line (23) and the first communication path (10), and the second switchover element (12) is expediently a multiplexer with two inputs and one output, and the inputs are selectively switchable to the output.

8. (previously presented) The participant in accordance with claim 1,

further comprising one receiver per communication path in the form of an optical receiver for receiving and coupling in the information signals from one of the first and second communication paths into the participant.

9. (previously presented) The participant in accordance with claim 1,

wherein one decoupling unit per communication path in the form of a light-emitting diode with a trigger circuit is provided in the participant for decoupling the information signals from the participant into one of the first or second communication paths.

10. (previously presented) The participant in accordance with claim 1,

wherein the participant is a secondary participant (1', 1") of the communication system.

11. (previously presented) The participant in accordance with claim 1,

wherein the participant is a central participant (1z) of the communication system.

12. (previously presented) The participant in accordance with claim 1,

wherein the participant is integrated into an actuator and/or a sensor, preferably into a drive control unit, and especially preferably into a drive control unit of a control motor.

13. (previously presented) The participant in accordance with claim 1,

wherein the input signal of a participant is checked for its presence by means of an edge detection in the participant.

14. (previously presented) The participant in accordance with claim 1,

wherein if a signal is absent at its input, a participant generates a zero-bit current for subsequent participants.

15. (previously presented) A communication system (5) for directed communication between participants of the communication system, having one central participant (1z) and at least one secondary participant (1', 1''),

wherein at least one of the participants comprises a first communication path (10) and a second communication path (20), the communication paths in the communication system having a double-ring topology that is configured to operate in contrary directions; a first processing unit (11) configured to process information signals, obtained via the first communication path (10), and/or to generate and send information signals via the first communication path; a second processing unit (21) configured to process information signals received via the second communication path (20) and/or for generating and sending to generate and send information signals via the second communication path; a first activatable coupling (13, 22) positioned between the first communication path (10) and the second communication path (20), such that upon activation of the first activatable coupling, information signals are picked up from the first

communication path (10) and delivered to the second communication path (20), wherein a location for delivery to the first activatable coupling is positioned downstream in a signal travel direction of a processing unit (21) of the second communication path (20), and wherein the processing unit (11, 21) checks the information signal for its presence, and wherein one phase locked loop per communication path is provided, wherein said one phase locked loop per communication path is configured for phase preparation of a received information signal.

16. (original) The communication system in accordance with claim 15, wherein the communication system is embodied with double-ring topology, with two communication paths (10, 20), each annularly closed.

17. (original) The communication system in accordance with claim 16, wherein the information signal travel in the two communication paths is effected in contrary directions.

18. (previously presented) The communication system in accordance with claim 15, wherein the participants are connected to one another via optical waveguides.

19. (previously presented) The communication system in accordance with claim 15,

wherein the communication system is a decentralized control system, having a master-slave structure, for controlling and regulating a plurality of control motors.